

January 3, 2014

Weekly Views

Staff and offenders at the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) participated in projects to help the needy during Christmas. The facility's PLUS program donated \$500 to the Anderson Christian Center which will be used to purchase gloves, scarves, and socks for families living at the center. The donation will also go toward the purchase of hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and over-the-counter medications needed by clients that receive services from the center. PCF staff donated 96 clothing items and 87 non-perishable food items to the center in conjunction with its annual "Tree of Warmth" project. (photo below)

A Christmas Luncheon was served to staff at the Indiana State Prison by the department heads and members of the Employee Appreciation Planning Committee. The Employee Appreciation Planning Committee supplied the food and gifts which were presented to staff as a thank you for their service throughout the year.



Edinburgh Correctional Facility provided a work crew of four offenders, supervised by Correctional Officer Arthur Bryant, to assist Edinburgh Fire Department Chief Allen Smith and other volunteers during Johnson County's annual "Good Cheer Fund." The offenders helped sort and load food for approximately 300 boxes to be picked up or delivered to families in need during the holiday season in the Edinburgh and Columbus area.

The residents at the Indianapolis Reentry Education Facility (IREF) will be dressing for success this year, thanks to a generous donation from Community Advisory Board Member Don Hawkins. Hawkins, who founded and directs Homeless and Reentry Helpers, Inc., brought several new suits and dress pants to the Dress for Reentry Program at IREF. The Jos. A. Banks shop at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis donates new and repaired clothing to Hawkins every year, who in turn, donated the suits and dress pants to the residents at IREF.

Putnamville Correctional Facility's Promoting Positive Corrections Culture Committee sponsored a blood drive. Twenty-two staff rolled up their sleeves to donate the gift of life for the Indiana Blood Center. (photo right: Physical Plant employee Matt Boor)



Westville Correctional Facility staff were delighted to have two holiday festivities in which to greet and gather with their co-workers. The facility's Employee Planning Action Committee hosted a wonderful holiday evening with dinner and dancing at the Portage Woodland Park Clubhouse. Superintendent Mark Levenhagen also hosted the annual Christmas Luncheon, complete with beef, turkey and all the trimmings prepared by the Culinary Arts program. The luncheon was a cheery success, as supervisors and non-custody staff relieved officers from their post to enjoy the luncheon or delivered food to their unit.

The month of December was very busy at Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility. Staff members went the extra mile this holiday season to help those in need. The facility adopted 12 children from the local woman's shelter, placing each child's name and age on the facility Christmas tree. After all the children's gifts were gathered, Superintendent Kathy Griffin and administration staff delivered them to the shelter. Offenders also participated in a food sale with the proceeds going to the Noble County Food Pantry. Staff collected non-perishable food items to go along with the monetary contribution. (photo left: Custody Supervisor J. Bernardin with Central Noble Food Pantry Director Brownlee) With all the fundraising and shopping, the facility still found time to recognize several staff members at the staff assembly. Case Manager Ron Moening retired after 10 years of service and Sergeant Henry Temple retired after 40 years of service. Both retirees were presented with plaques for their many years of service. Superintendent Griffin expressed her gratitude to all!



A crew from the Netherlands' RTL Television came to the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility to learn more about Youth Incarcerated as Adults. The Netherlands will begin a similar version of youth being tried and convicted as adults later this year. The video crew came to Wabash due to strong interest and continuing debate in the Netherlands. RTL Television, based in New York City with CBS News, focused on a Wabash offender who completed the YIA process and continued his re-entry efforts in the facility PLUS unit.

Employees were recognized for their outstanding service at a staff assembly at the Indiana State Prison. Quarterly awards were presented to Contractual Employee Andrew Manning, Lynette Gray, Officer Ryan Westman and Supervisor Carl Tibbles. Extra mile awards were given to Christopher Beal, Julie Anton, Torrie Dillon, Tracy Hall, and Brenda Wright. A special flag was presented to retiree Ivan Jones for his 40 years of service.

Superintendent Dushan Zatecky is pleased to announce that Correctional Officer Laura Rene Bodkin has been promoted to the position of ACA Accreditation Manager and Policy Coordinator for the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Congratulations to Officer Bodkin!

Putnamville would like to congratulate Robert James, Cody Worthington, Charles Carvey, Kevin Gilley, Timothy Thiel, and James Barker on their recent promotions to Correctional Sergeant and Brian Chalfin on his recent promotion to Correctional Captain.